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### From the Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Many things will take place in the month of October. We will begin with Lutheran Women's Missionary League Sunday on October 7. October 7 will also begin a three-week Stewardship emphasis culminating with Pledge Sunday on October 21. October 28 we will have Reformation Sunday with our regular services at Messiah and also an afternoon area wide service at 4:00 at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

As we think about stewardship it is good to remember that God has been faithful to us and it is important for us then to examine our faithfulness

in response to God's love for us. Every year it seems to get more and more difficult to keep good balance in our lives. There are so many things that compete for our time and attention. I always encourage people to be involved in weekly worship, a Bible study, and at least one ministry within our congregation. The challenge is to do that in conjunction with all of the other activities that we have in our lives. How do I balance my children's lives, my personal life, and my church life? We get through each day and each week feeling totally exhausted. How do I live a balanced life? The answer may not always be clear. It is important for us take time to sit down and decide what are our priorities as children of God and, at the same time, honoring the relationships given to us by God. We have relationships in the world that must be honored and we are members of a church that seeks to bring the love of Jesus to others. Once again - How do I maintain balance? While the answer may not be clear to us and the answer is different for each and everyone one of us, I do know that the First Commandment still applies to us - God must come first. Does God come first? Everyone must answer that question for themselves. We cannot judge others regarding that answer we can only judge for ourselves and our families.

When God comes first everything else will fall into place. We may not have ridden ourselves of hectic and chaotic lives, but we have the formula where we can place our stresses and worries into the hands of a loving God.

We truly do have a loving God that sees us through the chaos that the devil, the world, and our sinful selves place before us. It has become a cliché but it is truly relevant - Let Go and Let God.

In looking at your stewardship think about what God has done for you and then think about your response to that love. Put God first in your life; worship Him weekly; be in the Word; and then be involved in a task where you can use the gifts God has given you to honor Him and to serve others.

May God bless you and your family throughout the month of October and in the months and years to come.

In Jesus' name

**Pastor Allen Stuckwisch**



The Cincinnati Federation invites all to the **Reformation Worship Service**, October 23, 2018 at 4:00pm at St. Paul Lutheran Church (5433 Madison Rd, Cincinnati). **Rev. Dr. Lawrence Rast, Jr.** will be the speaker. The 4th annual Auxiliary Hymn Fest and Ingathering at 3:00pm.



## Upcoming Events

Oct 6 Greenhills Harvest Festival  
Oct 16 OWLS  
Oct 27 Trunk or Treat  
Oct 28 Reformation Service at St.  
Paul Lutheran Church  
Nov 4 Daylight Savings Ends  
Nov 6 Election Day  
Nov 10 Hands Against Hunger  
Event  
Nov 14 Prince of Peace Thanksgiv-  
ing dinner

## From the Elders

*When our characters are refined, we learn what it means to hope and anticipate God's goodness. And hope will never fail to satisfy our deepest need because the Holy Spirit that was given to us has flooded our hearts with God's love. – Romans 5:4-5*

Some words are simply more important than others. In scripture one word stands above all others: love. As John states below, the true nature of our God is love:

*Anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love – not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us. (1 John 4:8-12)*

Jesus came to earth to walk among us and share our mortality because of his love. He came to save us from what was broken and dying so that we and our world might be redeemed. While living among us, Jesus taught that the whole law could be summed up in two commands: **Love God with all that you are and love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:36-40)**. Jesus demonstrated this love with what he did in life and in death. He called upon us, again and again, to love each other showing the fruit of the Father's loving grace in our own dealings with each other. The apostle Paul makes it clear in his writings to the Corinthians that no matter how talented, rich, smart, generous, spiritual, or gifted in other ways we are, without love, our giftedness means nothing (1 Corinthians 12:29-31). We often fuss and fight over petty things that are temporary, neglecting the things that really matter – faith, hope, and love – and especially the one thing that matters most: Love. May the Holy Spirit fill our hearts with God's love so that we may share that love with those around us and those that we encounter in our lives. May we be filled with His love in all that we do, think, and say.

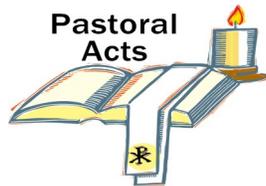
In the spirit of this message from John, the Board of Elders continues to encourage regular participation in worship and fellowship at Messiah. You can help as well. When you notice that one or more of our members have been absent, please pray that the Holy Spirit will move them to return, and then call, text or email them to let them know you miss them.

There are a variety of additional opportunities for connecting with other Messiah members and the community for fellowship and fun. Upcoming events include Trunk or Treat, a chili cook-off and the annual Progressive Dinner. These events also provide a great opportunity for introducing a friend or coworker to our Messiah family! Watch for information on these events in upcoming issues of the Messenger and on Messiah's website.

We also ask that you prayerfully consider offering your service as an usher, reader, greeter, sound board technician, Altar Society or Hospitality member. Help is needed in all of these areas. See one of the Elders for more information on how to get started.

The Elders

**Chuck Degenhardt, John Hiler, Shawn Horner, Tom Mueller, Rick Walter**



Congratulations to **Karen Budke and Stephen Mulry** on their marriage on September 14, 2018.

We rejoice with **Nicole and Justin Duty** at the baptism of their son **Nolan** on September 23, 2018.

**Pastor Stuckwisch** officiated at both joyous events.



"You said dress up as a Bible character ... and my character is Leviathan."



## From the Congregation President

As another year comes to a close it is time to look ahead to our 2019 Stewardship drive.

Over the past three years we have added staff and budget to better serve our community in anticipation of church growth and the resources that come along with church growth. God blessed Messiah with the gifts for the DCE Reserve Fund and then blessed Messiah with the hiring of **Hailey Robertson** as our DCE. Messiah now has in place a strong spiritual leadership team with Pastor and Hailey. Our three legged Growth Strategy of Personal Witnessing (LASSIE) + Growing Young (Fuller Youth Institute) + Relationship Building is sound. We are excited about the addition of the Greenhills Cooperative Preschool meeting at Messiah. With the introduction of several new projects to serve the local schools, our relations with the Greenhills community has never been better. Yet growth at Messiah has not happened. The past three years our average weekly attendance through the month of August has been flat (160 in 2016, 161 in 2017 and 160 in 2018). Likewise our giving has been relatively flat over the past three years. Our 2018 Budget is running a deficit. Our cash reserves are being depleted. The Leadership Team will need to make some difficult decisions as we begin preparing the 2019 Budget. The past three years the voters at Messiah have past deficit budgets. With tight fist cost control and the available funds from the DCE Reserve Fund, we were able to close out those years with minimal depletion of our cash reserves. The 2019 budget will be different as we will have less funds available from the DCE reserve fund. We must be more conservative in our budgeting and are looking to create a balanced budget that will not further deplete our cash reserves. The Leadership Team will continue to look at our existing ministries to evaluate effectiveness. Which Ministries we keep and which ones we may need to let go is a difficult decision. **Tithing or increasing your gifts to the General Fund needs to be a priority so we can support all of our budget needs in 2019 and beyond. If you are able, prayerfully consider a 10% Increase.**

Over the past few years, because of your continued support, Messiah was able to significantly improve the infrastructure of our church (roof, parking lot, building structure, and water issues) and created a much healthier major repair fund. Messiah has been committed to insuring that our church building and grounds are well maintained and are an attractive place to worship. Our fellowship hall floor is still in need of repair. Over the past two years your generous donations and pledges have fallen just a few thousand dollars short of the \$50,000 needed to start the repair work. The fellowship hall floor is stable (no longer dropping) and we allocated some of the designated funding to add the preschool playground this year. We need to replenish the major repair fund before we can start work on the fellowship hall floor. **\$22,000 to replenish the major repair fund is being requested in the 2019 Stewardship drive. For those of you that may have been richly blessed in 2018, we are also asking for a thank offering to the Major Repair Fund.**

Stewardship letters with Time, Talent and Treasures Pledge Cards have been sent to all households the week of Sept 24th. This letter contains important information about what is needed at Messiah to support all of our ministries in 2019 and beyond so that we may continue to be a **21st Century mission church "Living Jesus and Sharing Jesus"** in our community and the world. We request all Pledge Cards be returned no later than Nov 1<sup>st</sup>

2018 Messiah Giving and Expenses	
Aug Income	\$32,453
Aug Expenses	\$25,336
	\$7,117
Year to Date Income	\$233,244
Year to Date Expenses	\$249,011
	(\$15,767)

was (\$23,095) in July. [Getting Better](#)

Aug 2018 YTD Giving is only \$1,229 behind last year (\$11,601 behind in July) [Much Better](#)

Designated Gifts to Organ Repair Fund = \$7,415. Actual Organ Repair Cost = \$6,192. [Excess to Major Repair Fund](#)

Funds available for current activities Aug 2018 is \$22,457 [Getting Better](#)



## Messiah's Early Days {Part 10 by Greg McEneny}

The church council meeting on October 14, 1958 discussed the subjects of:

- 1-Obtain room for a nursery
- 2-Write a women's guild constitution
- 3-Recommend that we have a Thanksgiving service
- 4-Set October 26 as the next canvass
- 5-Check baptismal certificate availability
- 6-Find out Sunday school income

The first baptism was held in August, 1958 for **Karl Phillip Zinn**

We reviewed constitutions from three churches to construct Messiah's constitution which was accepted by voters in October, 1958.

Circles were formed with confirmed women were eligible to join. This was the beginning of our current altar guild, hospitality groups, LWML, involvement in the auxiliary to the Federation, and social service groups for the care groups, the inner city, etc.

### Attention all ladies of Messiah

Please join in supporting The Women's Auxiliary to the Federation of Lutheran Churches. A check or cash donation will help to support our ministry at University Hospital, Lutheran Campus Connections, Christ the Healer Lutheran Recovery Ministries. **Sandy Walter** is distributing booklets with the calendar for the year and a donation envelope. Please look for Sandy or call her (829-4346) for more information and an opportunity to support these ministries. THANK YOU TO ALL LADIES WHO HAVE ALREADY CONTRIBUTED.

### 2019 Messiah Nomination Slate

Messiah has several open positions on our Leadership Teams. These are excellent opportunities to provide Christian service while utilizing the skills that God has given you. Both men and women are eligible for the Leadership Teams, and men are eligible for the Elder positions.

Vice President	1
Elder	1
Property Manager	1
Care Coordinator	1
Family Ministries	2
Outreach Leader	1
Hospitality Coordinator	1

Please contact **Chris Berndt** (berndt\_chris@yahoo.com or phone 513-755-6110) or the Church Office, if you would be willing to serve in one of these positions.



**Book Club** will meet at the home of Jean Floyd, 7138 St. Albans Way, Liberty Township, on October 14 at 2:30 p.m. to discuss the book “Little Fires Everywhere” by **Celeste Ng**. A story of morals and motherhood opening with a mysterious fire. Set in Shaker Heights, OH this one is a page turner. Come join us for a lively discussion!

## OWLS



**OWLS** will meet on October 16 at 11:30 a.m. for our delicious pot-luck luncheon followed by a spooky October presentation - **Mary Cunningham**, 1860’s body snatcher in Cincinnati! Should be entertaining. Come and bring a friend.

### Upcoming dates for OWLS:

- Mark December 12 (it’s a Wednesday) at 10:30 a.m. for our annual Christmas concert on the mighty Wurlitzer Organ at Music Hall Ballroom. Sign up poster in the narthex. See **Bunny Doebling** for tickets or more information.
- **Artworks** will present a program at Messiah highlighting all of their murals around town on January, 15 if we can sell enough \$5 tickets to pay for the program. Sign up poster in the narthex and tickets will be on sale at the October meeting or see **Bunny Doebling** (543-0295) to purchase them.



Choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 7 PM and sings at the 8:30 service most Sundays, September-May. All ages and levels of singing ability are welcome to join us. You need not be present at every rehearsal or every service to participate. We will soon begin preparation for Advent and Christmas. We hope you will consider serving our congregation during worship by joining our choir! If you have any questions, contact **Cathy Carson** 513-824-1241 [cathycarson82@gmail.com](mailto:cathycarson82@gmail.com)

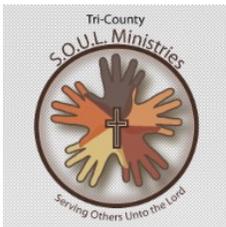


### GREENHILLS HARVEST FEST

**Saturday, October 6th**, Messiah will have a pumpkin decorating booth at the Greenhills Harvest Festival again. Please sign up to work an hour and get a new Messiah T-shirt. The booth will be operating from 1-6 PM. You may sign up for one hour or as many as you like. It’s lots of fun



Thank you to all who donated for the **Prince of Peace** dinner on September 19th and thanks to **Harold and Bev Roppel, Stan Capal, Hailey Robertson, Josh Tanczer, Scott Schuesler, Carol Dupps, Joan Rieger, and Rick and Sandy Walter** who served the meal at Prince of Peace Lutheran.



Tri-County SOUL Ministries – Look for our new Facebook page under Tri-County Soul Ministries and like us. The more publicity of our mission the better. We once again served over 1400 clients last month.

Toothbrushes & hearty soups are welcome donations!



### MESSIAH LADIES BRIDGE GROUP

Our Messiah Ladies Bridge group will now be playing in the Fellowship Hall on the third Monday of each month at 12:30 pm, beginning on October 15th. This will be for October, November and January. There will be no bridge during December due to the holidays.



## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Thank you for all of your support of the Prayer Shawl Ministry. For donating finds and yarn to help keep this ministry going to share the love of God to others. We have received a thank you card from a recipient recently. Here is part of the note:

“Thank you so much for the beautiful prayer shawl! It is the color of sunshine and is therefore a constant reminder of His light and love. Knowing that prayers were woven into the fibers of this gift makes it all the more special. May God continue to bless the work of your hands and your hearts!”

With the help from the Lord and everyone involved in this ministry it will continue to spread the love to others needing a hug and a reminder that the Lord is with them.

If you would like to give a prayer shawl, bride’s prayer shawl, baby blanket please contact **Sharon Schuesler**, (513)324-0349 or [sschuesler@outlook.com](mailto:sschuesler@outlook.com).



**Pastor Ben Burge**, son of Messiah, was ordained into the holy ministry on Sunday, September 2 at Royal Redeemer Lutheran Church. **Ohio District President Kevin Wilson** officiated and gave the message. We celebrate God’s call as the Holy Spirit continues to increase His church through Word and sacraments.



One of the grants that our mites to LWML help support.

**The Carrie L. Twyman Kids Church** is based at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Cincinnati. It is a positive outreach program for neighborhood children with no church home and desires to continue and expand the services to additional children; to assist with costs for purchasing Bibles, teaching tools, and other costs associated with the expansion of this program.



*October 27th*

*More details coming very soon!*





## Jr. & Sr. High Youth

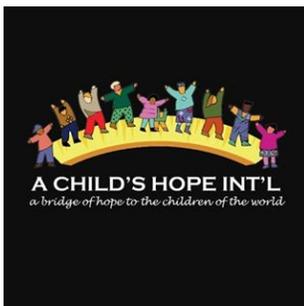
- ◆ **Oct. 6th: Greenhills Harvest Festival (Volunteer @ Messiah Booth from 3-5 PM)**
- ◆ **Oct. 7th: National Youth Gathering Meeting (Current 8th - 12th grade students)**
- ◆ **Oct. 28th: 4th Sunday from 12 - 2 PM (all Jr. & Sr. High youth are invited to enjoy an afternoon of lunch and an activity after the 10:45 service).**

**PARENTS—Check your e-mail at the beginning of every month for youth events and news!**



### KIDS' OFFERING

Through the month of October, the kids are invited to share their faith by giving an offering. The money we collect at the beginning of the Children's Message will help feed kids and families through A Child's Hope International. Specifically, the money will go towards **Hands Against Hunger** an annual food packing event that will happen on November 10th that everyone is invited to participate in. Stay tuned for more details on how to sign up and other ways to get involved.



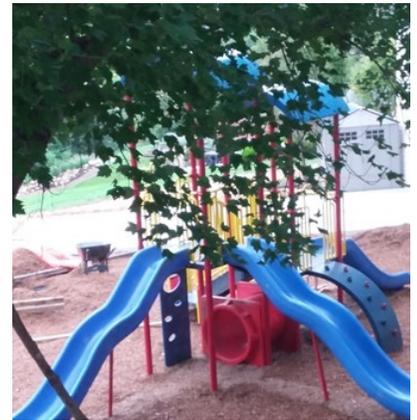


The Thrivent Financial Hands Against Hunger Meal Packing Event is Saturday morning November 10th. Be sure to mark your calendars for this packing event – this is a great service activity for the whole family. Remember we do this because **30,000 children die EACH DAY** due to hunger related causes and we have the opportunity to make a difference. **We have the opportunity**

**to be the hands and feet of Christ.** Additional information will be available soon – in the e-news, in the bulletins, and on the display table in the narthex.



Packed 101,952 meals in just over 2 hours last year.



In case you haven't been able to check out the preschool rooms and renovations – here are a few pictures.





Fun night at Glow Golf

OWLS heard an interesting presentation on the life of Annie Oakley at their September lunch and gathering



Yogafit~ Style Started September 10th. Thank you **Susan Silver** for leading the class.



We enjoyed gathering for lunch to celebrate **Ken Schuesler** retirement from Messiah's custodian job. Thank you again, Ken for all your work.





Children's Message



Celebrated **Greg McEneny's** 98th birthday.

September 9th was a rainy Sunday, so our outdoor service and picnic lunch was moved indoors. Wonderful service in the sanctuary. Great food provided by everyone – and special thanks to **Jim Worachek** for grilling the meats – many varieties of side dishes to complete the potluck. Good fellowship, too. Thanks to everyone.





# OCTOBER

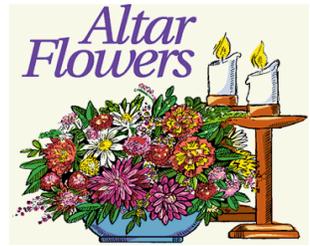


- 1 Andrew Adams
- 1 Verna Wunnenberg
- 2 Sarah Mayer
- 2 Amira Ramahi
- 3 Michael Ditz
- 3 Eileen Tanis
- 4 Carol Dupps
- 4 Beth Hopper
- 8 Robert Hullinger
- 9 Silas Berndt
- 9 Emily Capal
- 9 Andrew Sparks
- 9 Matthew Sparks
- 10 Karen Budke
- 10 Jason Farler
- 12 Anna Wilhelm
- 13 Lynn Hiler
- 13 Mary Langenfeld
- 14 Aryanna Horner

- 14 Jasmine Horner
- 17 Brad Stroeh
- 21 Lora Budke
- 22 Howard Nugent
- 24 Debbie Capal
- 26 Jason Kennedy
- 27 Adele Staten
- 29 Celeste Hackmann
- 30 Robert Ditz
- 31 Gregg Dupps



- 8 Bob and Cherry Staab
- 11 Stan and Debbie Capal
- 14 Randy and Julie Gross
- 20 Steve and Christina Bow
- 23 Dave and Susan Bennett
- 25 Randy and Karen Schuerman



## Altar Flowers

### Altar Flowers

The following families have signed up for October:  
Staab, Rice

Please remit your payment of **\$25**

to  
**"MESSIAH  
ALTAR  
SOCIETY"**

and place in the  
Altar Society mailbox  
in the church office.

*Thank You!*

**The flowers must be paid for  
before the order is placed**

I would like to thank everyone who prepared food for the retirement celebration, who called me on the phone, who sent and gave cards and gifts, and to all the people who said "thank you". I was overwhelmed by the gift from the congregation; Sharon and I have both said before we die we would like to sit in the Reds' diamond seats behind home plate. Since we both can go (thank you so much for the love you have shown us), we were going to wait but have decided to pick a cooler day this season instead of a rainy and cold day next year. We will take pictures while we are there and share them with you in the next Messenger article. Thanks to the Elders for arranging the celebration. Blessings to all.

**Ken Schuesler**

## Tithing is a gift of love

It is important to remember that tithing is an attitude of giving. The amount you give or how it compares to the gifts of others doesn't really matter.

What matters is that when you give, you give of yourself, all your loving concern, your affirmation of devotion to God, your good will to humankind, and your service to Christ. When you give with this spirit, then you are giving the fullest capacity of your spiritual, physical and mental resources.

A true gift is a portion of your self. When you give in this manner, you become an instrument of God. It is the gift of love.

**Messenger Deadline for the November**

**issue is**

**October 15.**

**Send articles to [messenger@MessiahGRH.org](mailto:messenger@MessiahGRH.org)**

# October 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 7:30pm Band and Vocals	3 10:15am Ladies' Bible Study 7:00pm Choir	4	5	6 <b>Greenhills Harvest Festival</b> 5:30pm Traditional Communion
7 <b>LWML Sunday</b> 8:30am Traditional Communion Worship Service 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Contemporary Communion Worship Service 12:00pm National Youth Gathering Meeting	8 7:00pm Yoga class	9 7:30pm Band and Vocals	10 10:15am Ladies' Bible Study 7:00pm Choir	11	12	13 7:30am Elders Meeting 8:30am Leadership Board Meeting 5:30pm Traditional Worship Service
14 8:30am Traditional Worship Service 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Contemporary Worship Service 2:30pm Book Club	15 12:30pm Ladies Bridge 7:00pm Yoga class	16 11:30am OWLS 7:30pm Band and Vocals	17 10:15am Ladies' Bible Study 7:00pm Choir	18	19	20 5:30pm Traditional Communion Worship Service
21 <b>Pledge Sunday</b> 8:30am Traditional Communion Worship Service 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Contemporary Communion Worship Service	22 <b>Ladies Bridge</b> 7:00pm Yoga class	23 7:30pm Band and Vocals	24 10:15am Ladies' Bible Study 7:00pm Choir	25	26	27 5:30pm Traditional Worship Service
28 <b>Reformation Sunday</b> 8:30am Traditional Worship Service 9:30am Education Hour 10:45am Contemporary Worship Service 12:00pm Youth 4th Sunday 3:00pm Hymn Fest and Ingathering 4:00pm Reformation Service at St. Paul	29 7:00pm Yoga class	30 7:30pm Band and Vocals	31 10:15am Ladies' Bible Study 7:00pm Choir			



O God, who has given us the earth, filled it with every good thing and set us on it as caretakers and stewards, we raise our prayer of thanksgiving to you for life and beauty and grace.

Teach us to pause each day to see what you have made and how it reveals your graciousness to us. Help us live with thankful attitudes. Help us make each day a new beginning full of promise.

Give us the courage to leave behind our pessimism, gloom and self-despising and to recognize every good gift you're waiting to give us.

Make us into your triumphant people, whose gift back to you is the love and respect we give to ourselves and our neighbor. And let your kingdom come through us today and forever. Amen.